



ZOMBIE
WORLD
1 OF 3

NOV 88
\$2.50

MIKE
MIGNOLA
and
PAT
MEEHAN

ZOMBIE WORLD

CHAMPION
of the
WORMS



FINISH
THE
AFTER
THE
DOWN



ZOMBIE WORLD™

CHAMPION
— of the —
WORMS

by
**MIKE
MIGNOLA**
and
**PAT
MCEOWN**

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HYPERBorea.

SANCTI ANNUNY
HYPERBODUM



SANCTI
ANNUNY SANCTI
ANNUNY
ANNUNY ANNUNY
ANNUNY

ANNUNY
ANNUNY

ANNUNY
ANNUNY
ANNUNY
ANNUNY



SUTH UN
GOTHA!



AZZUL GOTHA
MUTHOON!



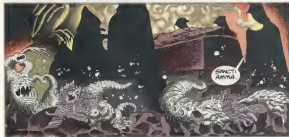
AZZUL
GOTHA
MUTHOON!

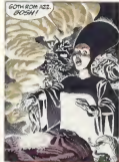


AZZUL
GOTHA

AZZUL
GOTHA UN
GOTHA

SHACT!





WHISTLER, MASSACHUSETTS
FOURTY-TWO THOUSAND YEARS LATER

YES, MRS DEAN
WE HAVE YOUR
SARCOPHAGUS

IT ARRIVED
LAST FRIDAY, AND
SINCE THEN WE'VE
HAD NOTHING
BUT TROUBLE
HERE

OVER THE WEEKEND
OUR SECURITY GUARD WALKED OFF
THE JOB WITHOUT EXPLANATION ON
MONDAY THE MEN WORKING ON THE
RENOVATIONS LEFT AFTER ONE HOUR
COMPLAINING OF 1000 DISTURBANCES
NOW NO ONE WILL GET FOOT IN THE
MUSEUM EXCEPT FOR MYSELF, AND
I HAVE BEEN HEARING SOME
VERY STRANGE NOISES

I'M SURE THIS
ALL HAS TO DO WITH THAT
ACCURSED SARCOPHAGUS
AND I'VE TAKEN THE
LIBERTY OF CALLING IN
SOME EXPERTS TO ASSESS
THE SITUATION

EXPERTS BY THE WAY, LET ME REMIND
YOU THAT BY CONTRACT IS FINANCING
THESE RENOVATIONS HE IS WRITTEN,
PLACING HIM IN CHARGE OF THIS
EXHIBIT IF ANY ACCIDENT IS TO
BE DONE, IT'LL BE DONE BY HIM

IT'D LIKE
TO SEE THE
SARCOPHAGUS
NOW

YES, MRS DEAN,
OF COURSE...
UM...UM...
FOLLOW ME,
PLEASE

WE ARE ALL GRATEFUL TO YOUR
PATRONS FOR ALL HE'S DONE, WE
CERTAINLY HAVE NO WISH TO
JEOPARDISE THIS PROJECT.
BUT...UM

BUT
WHAT?



THIS COULD BE THE MOST IMPORTANT ARCHEOLOGICAL FIND IN DECADES—MADE IN AFRICA FROM A CIVILIZATION WE HAVEN'T EVEN GUESS EXISTED!

I REALIZE THAT, BUT—



BUT?!

LATER! THE NEW SUPERHERO MUSEUM IS GOING TO PUT YOUR SMALL-TIME MUSEUM ON THE MAP, SO JUST GET OUT OF THE WAY AND LEAVE EVERYTHING TO ME.

YES, MA'AM



WELL HERE WE ARE, I TRUST YOU'RE SATISFIED.



I'LL SEE. LET'S JUST HAVE A—



PLEASE DO NOT TOUCH THAT, YES, THANK YOU.



WHO ARE YOU?

FORGIVE ME, I AM MASON DAWSON. THESE ARE MY COLLEAGUES, ROMAN, JULIA DUNSTON, AND BRUCE ST. JOHN. WE WERE CALLED REGARDING DISTURBANCES CAUSED BY A HYPERBOSEAN RELIC. YOU ARE, MR. ZORASKY?

YES, THAT'S RIGHT.



AND THIS IS THE OBJECT IN QUESTION. *As you see* UNIDENTIFIABLY HYPERBOSEAN

YEP!

YEP! EASY TO SEE ONE IN THIS KIND OF SHIP!

UNHEARD OF, I SHOULD THINK



PROFESSOR, ED AND PEARL HAS BEEN GATHERING BEAUTIFUL PILES DOWN FROM THE ASTRO FOR A YEAR NOW, SO FAR. IN FACT, WE'RE OPENING AN ENTIRELY NEW FING FOR THEM. WE'VE BEEN TRYING TO KEEP IT QUIET, BUT I'M AFRAID SOMEONE IS TRYING TO ANNOTATE THE PROJECT.

YES, SO I GATHERED FROM YOUR PHONE CALL.



SOBBIY, YOU MORON. THERE'S SUPPOSED TO BE A MUMMY IN THERE! YOUR SECURITY GUARD STOLE MY DAD'S MUMMY!

I'M BLIND!



BUT HE COULDN'T HAVE STOLEN IT! THE BACKGROUND CHECKS SAY HE'S LEAVE - AND NOTHING ELSE IS MISSING.



EXCEPT THAT THING FROM THE COFFIN HE COULD'VE CARRIED THAT IN HIS POCKET.

I BET HE STASHED THE MUMMY SO HE CAN COME BACK FOR IT LATER.

NO ONE'S BEEN HADGE SINCE THE FOGGEMEN LEFT, AND I SAW THEM GO. THERE'S BEEN A GUNGE OUTSIDE AROUND THE CLOCK SINCE THEN.

IT MUST BE HERE SOMEWHERE!



THIS WAY.





WE'LL START
IN THE EGYPTIAN
ROOM

THERE ARE A NUMBER
OF PLUMBS ON DISPLAY
AND NOCS IN STORAGE

IT STANDS TO
REASON THAT
THE MISSING ONE
COULD BE HIDDEN
AMONG THEM



EXCUSE
ME...

BUT I
SENSE EYE
FORCED AT
WORK.

CRASH


EEEE

GOD IN
HEAVEN!

THEY'RE
COMING
TO LIFE!







"I FEAR THE PROFESSOR HAS
HAS UNearthED THE
TOMB OF AZUL GOtha."

"WHO?"

"I MUST DREAMED OF THE OLD
HYPERBORGIAN NATION. MORE,
MOST ANTIQUARIAN OF HIS
TIME. NOT ONLY DID HE COMMUNE
WITH THE DEAD, NOT ONLY WAS
HE A THEIST AND A RESEARCHER,
BUT HE WAS A SECRET
PROTECTOR OF CERTAIN
SUBTERRANEAN ROOMS, GODS,
AND THIS LAST THING WAS
LONG BELIEVED BY THE
FIRST-KING HIMSELF."

"LEGEND HAS IT AZUL
GOtha'S GRAVE WAS NOT
ABANDONED AND ENTOMBED
ALIVE. SOMEONE
CREATED A TALISMAN
THAT WOULD KEEP HIM
ALIVE, BUT FOUND RESI-
DENCE IN HIS BARRACONS."



"AND NOW SOME-
ONE HAS REMOVED
THE TALISMAN, AND
AZUL GOtha IS FREE."



ABDUCTED THROUGH THE AIR HENT
THE DEVIL IS ONE STEP AHEAD OF US
WE'LL HAVE TO COME EVERY INCH
OF THE MUSEUM.

That'll
take time--

I THINK
I MAY BE OF
ASSISTANCE

PLEASE
CATCH ME I'M
ABOUT TO LOSE
CONSCIOUSNESS
NOW

Jeez

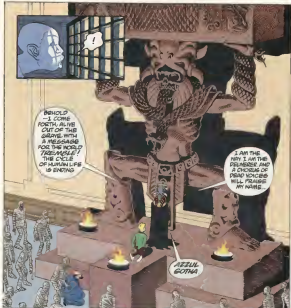
IN THIS FORM IT SHOULD
BE A SIMPLER MATTER TO LOCATE
THEM, THE PSYCHIC RESIDUE
OF FEAR IS VISIBLE TO ME

I WAS RIGHT.
THE TRAIL IS
CLEAR.

Wait

YES IT IS
CLOTHED
LAPSE

There



BEHOLD
—I COME
FOORTH, ALIVE
OUT OF THE
SLOVE, WITH
A MESSAGE
FOR THE WORLD
FEEL-HELL!
THE CYCLE
OF HUMAN LIFE
IS ENDING

I AM THE
KEY I AM THE
DELIVERER, AND
A CHOICE OF
DEAD VOICES
WILL PRaise
MY NAME.

*AZZUL
GOTHA!*



AZZUL GOTHA!

WHO?

THE NAME MEANS
NOTHING TO YOU? THEN
THE WORLD HAS
FORGOTTEN TO DENY
OF ME, AND MY VICTORY
IS ABUSED.

ONLY YOU
REBELLS DOWN,
HAVE NOTHING
TO FEAR.



YOU WERE CHOSEN
FROM THE MOMENT YOUR
FATHER DISCOVERED
MY TOMB

I SAW YOUR
FACE IN HIS
MIND



"IT WAS I WHO
INFLUENCED HIM
TO WRITE TO YOU.

"WHEN I ATE IN
PLACE OF THE
BINDING STONE
I CAUSED HIM TO
SEE GOLD..."

"I HOPED YOU WOULD
BE THE ONE TO LOOSE
ME FROM MY PRISON-
BOX, BUT YOU WERE LATE
IN COMING, AND I WAS
ANYWAYS TO BE FREE. I
USED THE SECURITY GUARD



"...AND THEN I
WAS FREE.



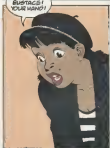
"I FOUND MY
DOWN AND
PUSH PARTING
FOR ME.

"NOW I AM
COMPLETE."











TO HYPERBOREA!



Focus!
Relax!
Come if you dare!
There are greater
forces at work
here than you
can possibly
imagine

WITHOUT THE
BINDING WOUNDS I
CANNOT LIVE MUCH
LONGER. SOON I WILL
TRAVEL DOWN THE
DARK PATH, THEN
BRING AKAASHI!
I WILL CLAIM MY
QUEEN AND WE
TWO SHALL
PRESIDE OVER
AN EMPIRE OF
DEATH!!

HELP

HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA

BUZZ

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So one night I'm on the phone with Mike Mignola, talking about what's wrong with comics, and the first thing we came up with was that there's not enough fun. Everything's either too serious or too damn stupid. The conversation went on a while before we come to a more specific deficiency in the industry:

"Not enough zombies!"

Mike came up with the story you've just started, and we talked about how to make it an ongoing series, spinning off in every direction imaginable from his initial *Azzul Gotha* story — who at that point I think we were referring to as *Nero-Guy*. We referred to the book itself by an equally half-assed and amateur title, *ZombieWorld*. This somehow stuck.

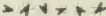


After the *Hellboy/Ghost* crossover had come out, Pat McEown told me that if Mike was ever looking for a collaborator again that it had to be him. Mike knew Pat's work from *Gemini WarWorld*, and when we looked at some more recent work, *ZombieWorld* seemed to make a lot more sense. Pat's artwork would make this so much different from everything else on the stands that we suddenly had all the reason we needed to do the book. The first of many such surprises was that Pat loved zombies. His sketchbook was full of them. It took the opportunity to work with Mike combined with the chance to draw so damn many zombies to get Pat to sign on for three issues, the biggest assignment he's taken since *WarWorld*. As Mike's said in many interviews and press releases, what you see in *Champion of the Women* is more Pat McEown than Mike Mignola. He designed everything and came up with a lot of the dialogue. We gave him free reign and he made the most of it.



Originally intending to give *ZombieWorld* lock, stock, and barrel to Dark Horse, Mike took a little creator-friendly advice from various colleagues, which led to a deal unique in comics. He gave us *ZombieWorld* as a gift, but saved for himself and

Pat a lot of the financial, creative, and legal benefits of creator-owned work. So while Dark Horse is free to publish as many *ZombieWorld* comics as we can find creators interested, those creators have the benefit of owning and controlling both the creation and future use of the work they do. As with *Azura* and *Predator*, Dark Horse hopes to turn *ZombieWorld* into a title that readers look for month after month as creative teams come and go, always expecting each new team to bring with them a fresh outlook and exciting ideas.



Pat's interest in zombies was, as I said, the first of many such surprises. Most creators I talked to were surprisingly interested in doing *Zombie* comics. Mike and I never expected this, despite our own interest, which we wrote off as morbid and childlike (had we looked more closely at the racks of the local comics shops, maybe we wouldn't have thought we were unique in our amateurity). People from Duncan Fegredo to Sergio Aragones' expressed real interest. The reason for this, which we plan to carry into the comics as much as possible, is the variety of zombie films out there. Unlike the Fox licenses mentioned above, zombie tales can range from hard-edged comedy (*Return of the Living Dead*) to farcic tale (*White Zephyr*) to the absurd (*Dead Alive*) to the grotesque (*Lucio Fulci's Zombi and The Beyond*) to the surreal (*Cemetery Man*) to the poetic (*Crossed of Souls*) to just totally over-the-top mayhem (*Dr. Eeklar, M.D. Medical Demos*). It moves typically allow themselves to go wild in whatever direction their creators imagine, with a born but personal vision behind the morhouse plots and often anxiety-ridden themes. Expect *ZombieWorld* to be just as varied and unpredictable.



Art by Stephen Biss. Cover by Chris Madden.

We've already got the first year of *ZombieWorld* lined up. We're spending Christmas with Gordon Bennie (*Tundra's White Trash*) and Gary Erskine (*Star Wars: Tales of the Jedi*), who bring us the extra-long one-shot *Home for the Holidays*, in which the Matherson estate in Connecticut welcomes home the family — the whole family. The way Gordon sees zombies is this: "Scary and funny as hell, in equal measure. After the Christmas Special, my own personal undead apocalyptic curstures in *Earthfall*, when I get my shot at wiping out 99% of the human race. I tell you, for a miserable-minded Scottish Calvinist such as myself, it's a dream come true." The three-part *Earthfall* begins next summer, when the first manned mission to Mars returns home to find a world much more hostile than the red one they just left.



In January comes *Dead End*, two issues from Keric Award-winner Stephen Blau. His first graphic novel, *Red River*, was about the scariest cosa I've read this decade: "*Night of the Living Dead* was a very influential movie for me," Stephen said. "With *Dead End* I wanted to take that scenario and turn it on its head." His stint on *ZombieWorld* will be a real departure from the levity of *Champion of the Movers*, and provide surprises unprecedented in walking-dead stories.



Then comes our big epic. With the outbreak of zombies beginning on the east coast, I knew



Art by Tommy Lee Canaday, colors by Melissa Canaday



Art by Gary Erskine, colors by Geneva Smith

there was one question that needed to be answered more than any other — what happens to the Big Apple? This story had to be big, and it would have to be very location-specific to make its point. One cartoonist evokes New York City in his work so much better than anyone else working today that it seems he's the only one who lives there, and I knew I could get him. Bob Fingerman, creator of *Fantagraphics'* wonderful *Musgrave Mags*, says this: "About five years ago, the first thing I pitched at Dark Horse was a couple of zombie series, so when *ZombieWorld* was brought to my attention I was ably interested in contributing to it. I've been nuts about zombies since my teens, so I'm thrilled that I am going to have a crack at doing them my way."



Bob's story is darker than I expected from him, though you can count on a certain amount of his usual social satire. We've turned to the high-contrast style of Tommy Lee Edwards (*DC/Vertigo's Green Blood*) to convey the physical and emotional oppressiveness of New York's downfall. Tommy and I had been talking since the inception of *ZombieWorld* about our mutual interest in zombies, but the happy coincidence this time was that Tommy had been following Bob's *Fantagraphics* book and was eager to work with him. Here's a collaboration that was meant to be.



And here's a hint that's meant to end. Next month things get even worse for Estace, and Arrel Gotha makes final preparations for a plan 42,000 years in the making. The Buzz will be your letters about the undead, so start writing.

—Scott Allie



"I AM THE WAY.
I AM THE
DELIVERER.
AND A CHORUS
OF DEAD VOICES
WILL PRAISE
MY NAME . . ."

DIRECT SALES



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